

COLOCASIA CORYLI L. F. **MELANOTICA** HAVERKAMPF AT WOKING. — It was indeed a surprise to find here on the night of 12th July, 1976 the well-known melanic form of the Nut-tree Tussock which is now so prevalent in the Chilterns and represents quite a high proportion of the whole population there. But so far as I am aware it has seldom been seen outside that region. In fact the only specimen in the series in the RCK collection in the British Museum (Natural History) which comes from outside the area is from Aldenham in Hertfordshire, not far from Tring where the form apparently was first taken in 1910. A further example appeared here on the night of 15th July, thus indicating that it may have become established at Woking. It would be of interest to know if this melanic form is substantially spreading its range or if any other information can throw light on this phenomenon. — C. G. M. DE WORMS, Three Oaks, Horsell, Woking.

LITHOPHANE LEAUTIERI (BOISD.), **DICHONIA AREOLA** (ESP.) AND OTHER MOTHS FLYING IN WINTER IN MILD WEATHER. — Of Mr. D. W. H. ffennell's stimulating observations in S. Spain (1976, *Ent. Rec.*, **88**: 157-158), the capture in early February there of *Lithophane leautieri* Boisduval raises perhaps the most interesting question, in my opinion. It will be recalled that Kettlewell (1957, *Entomologist*, **90**: 1-8) showed how this species (there referred to *L. lapidea* (Hübner)) lays its ova in autumn in England and the larvae hatch in early spring, unlike most of its congeners which hibernate and mature sexually in spring. To my knowledge there has only been one record of the species flying in the early part of the year, namely that of E. & H. Urbahn (1968, *Mitt. ent. Ges. Basel*, **18** (ix): 115) of the capture of *L. leautieri* subsp. *sabinae* Hübner-G. at about 2,000 m. in May 1967 at Crans, Switzerland. I wrote to C. Boursin asking his opinion on this remarkable record and he replied (*in litt.* 12.xi.1968) "Urbahn's record appears to me improbable. No one has ever taken this species in spring, especially in May; it is univoltine and flies in October, November, December. If the record is correct it is very curious". Further observations on the life history of the species in S. Spain are therefore to be desired, and the Crans record requires confirming.

Mr. ffennell's observations on *D. areola* Esp. and other moths flying in winter in S. Spain parallel my own of 1932/36 in Cyprus and the Lebanon (1938, *Ent. Rec.*, **50**: 144-146) partly including the same species flying at the same season; even the titles of his and my articles separated by nearly 40 years are somewhat similar. — E. P. WILTSHIRE, 140 Marsham Court, Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4JY.

SIX NEW RECORDS OF MICROLEPIDOPTERA FOR THE ISLE OF WIGHT (V.C. 10). — Whilst on holiday on the Isle of Wight in late August, 1975, I obtained the following new vice-county records: —

- (a) *Stigmella roborella* (Johansson). Parkhurst Forest.